

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus comprising:

a detecting portion which detects a magnitude of tension of a main rope suspending a car;

a plurality of braking devices which brake ascent or descent of the car by methods that are different from each other; and

an abnormality control device which is capable of ascertaining the magnitude of the tension based on information from the detecting portion and which, when the magnitude of the tension becomes abnormal, selects a first one of the braking devices when the magnitude of the tension is less than a first tension magnitude threshold and selects a second one of the braking devices when the magnitude of the tension is less than a second tension magnitude threshold, and outputs a braking command signal to the selected one of the braking devices.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an alarm device which gives an alarm to the effect that the magnitude of the tension has become abnormal,

wherein, when the magnitude of the tension becomes abnormal, the abnormality control device outputs an abnormality signal to the alarm device at a stage where the magnitude of the tension is larger than the magnitude of the tension when the braking command signal is output, and

wherein the alarm device is adapted to give the alarm upon input of the abnormality signal.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a driving device which has a drive sheave around which the main rope is wrapped and a motor for rotating the drive sheave and which causes the car to be raised and lowered through rotation of the drive sheave,

wherein at least one of the braking devices is an operation control device which performs control over power supply to the motor to thereby brake the rotation of the drive sheave.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a driving device which has a drive sheave around which the main rope is wrapped and a motor for rotating the drive sheave and which causes the car to be raised and lowered through rotation of the drive sheave,

wherein at least one of the braking devices is a brake device which has a braking member and which brakes the rotation of the drive sheave through contact of the braking member with the drive sheave.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the braking devices is an emergency stop device which is mounted on the car, which has a braking member, and which brakes the car through contact of the braking member with a guide rail guiding the car.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the main rope is provided with a connecting portion connected to the car through the intermediation of an elastic member, and

wherein the detecting portion detects the magnitude of the tension by measuring a displacement amount of the connecting portion with respect to the car.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the main rope is provided with a connecting portion connected to the car, and

wherein the detecting portion detects the magnitude of the tension by measuring an expansion or contraction amount of the connecting portion.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method of operating an elevator apparatus, the method comprising:

detecting a magnitude of tension of a main rope suspending a car;

selecting a first one of a plurality of braking devices when the magnitude of the tension in the detecting becomes abnormal and the magnitude of the tension in the detecting is less than a first tension magnitude threshold, the first braking device arranged to brake ascent or descent of the car by a first braking method;

selecting a second one of the plurality of braking devices when the magnitude of the tension in the detecting becomes abnormal and the magnitude of the tension in the detecting is less than a second tension magnitude threshold, the second braking device arranged to brake ascent or descent of the car by a second braking method different than the first braking method; and

outputting a braking command signal to the selected one of the braking devices.